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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

1930-1931 PRICE LIST OF NURSERY STOCK

JOHN ROBERTSON'S NURSERY

HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA



The Anoka Is Noted For Its Early Bearing

—ANNOUNCEMENT—

All divisions of fruits bore an extra heavy crop the past year of 1929, though weather conditions were not uniformly favorable for maximum returns in highest quality and perfection. There was enough hail at times during the summer to blemish certain fruits and lower grades, and a six inch snow September 5th caused considerable damage to the apple crop by cracking the skins of certain varieties. We estimated the apple crop at upwards of 6000 bushels, but there was considerable loss in harvesting.

Currants, gooseberries, cherries, plums, grapes and pears all produced well; but the best crop of high grade fruit was in the line of red raspberries. We marketed 5580 well filled pint boxes of the Latham variety, without loss in any way. We do not know of any other variety of raspberry that can approach the Latham in size, quality, and quantity of fruit; nor in meeting such general favor with the public consumer.

We planted the first apple trees on this place in the spring of 1896. These first trees are still on the job, and doing well. During the interval of years we have extended the orchard till this line now includes over 20 acres. This is not a large orchard, when considered from a commercial viewpoint; but considering the number of varieties represented, and the particular quality of service we try to give, it has developed into quite a business.

In connection with fruit growing for market, we have turned the place into a regular experiment farm, trying out many of the old, as well as the new, varieties that are offered from year to year. We now have something over one hundred varieties of apples growing on the place, as well as many different sorts in the other several divisions of fruits that are adapted to this climate.

It takes a lot of time and work to experiment with fruits. There is no direct money return in this line, but a wealth of knowledge that cannot be had in any other way. And, beyond all this, we get enjoyment through this line that no money can buy. We have learned something in our acquaintance with many varieties that is not only of value to ourselves, but it is a real pleasure to pass the information on to others.

When we get a new fruit here for trial, it has to measure up with many other varieties of its kind; and if it does not show some outstanding merit in the orchard, it is never propagated in the nursery to be offered to the public. Out of many sorts, there are comparatively few that may be classed as leaders.

Fruit growing is the main issue on this place, with the nursery department conducted as a small side line. We do not always have a supply in the nursery, of all the different varieties, that I recommend; but my first object in this little price list is to give information. We do not try describing varieties, but simply list a number of those we consider best in planting a family orchard. It takes considerable space to tell something of the quality of different sorts of fruits.

Those who are interested in learning more about growing fruits flowers and vegetables, should become members of the South Dakota State Horticultural Society, by sending the one dollar annual membership fee to R. W. Vance, Pierre, S. D. A fine monthly magazine, full of helpful articles, is now being sent to each member; and besides this, you are entitled to a selection from a goodly list of choice plants, including fruits, flowers and vegetables.

Then too, those who have faith in me and a desire to learn more about fruit growing on the dry subsoil lands of the Northwest, will find helpful articles at times in the Horticultural Department of "The Dakota Farmer," published at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

I write this as a personal message. I answer many individual letters for information during the year; but in many instances it is impossible to write as fully as I wish doing. We still are interested in the welfare and behavior of our goods after they leave our hands, so I am always very pleased to hear from those who have purchased nursery stock from us in years past, saying how they have succeeded.

VARIETIES TO PLANT

For the family orchard there should be a few early apples as well as some of the later varieties; but it is usually a mistake to plant very many of the early ripening kinds. There should be a variety of crabs, as most in this line are hardy and do well. Plant more Wealthy trees than any other apple sort.

Plums, and small fruits such as currants and gooseberries, are easily grown and come into bearing early. Raspberries are a success, with proper care, including winter protection.

I like to have customers make their own selections as much as possible, when ordering; but it often happens that the customer does not feel certain as to what he should choose. In such cases simply tell us something about your soil and location; and if you already have some fruits planted, tell us as near as you can what they are, so we will not duplicate these too much. We are always pleased when asked to use our own judgment in selecting varieties to fill an order.

SIZES AND TRAINING

I advise choosing one and two year old stock for general planting. Exceptions to this rule may be allowed where few trees are being set. Small stock costs less, is more easily handled and planted, and makes a quicker recovery in starting new growth.

Then, too, small trees are more easily trained in forming a head at the desired height. Low headed trees bear earliest, produce the most fruit, live longest, and are the most easily pruned, sprayed and picked. They are least affected by winds and sunscald.

PLANTING

Early spring is the time to plant in the dry northwest.

Apple trees should be planted not less than 30 feet apart each way, so as to allow for spread of roots in search of moisture as the tree grows larger without competition with the roots of other trees or plants.

Plums, and the smaller shrubbery, do not require so much space, but it is always wise to allow plenty.

A good general guide in spacing, is to have in mind that the roots of a plant always reach fully as far on all sides as the height of the plant above ground; so it is most important that each plant have enough space

as it reaches the age of maturity, to give most returns. In the beginning of an orchard, one row of small fruits may be set between each two rows of apple trees, and dug out at a later time when the apple trees have reached the size to require all the moisture that falls between.

But do not plant two rows between, or fill up all space with garden stuff as an excuse for cultivation. Moisture is taken from the soil mainly by growing vegetation; so do not plant anything close up to trees, nor allow weeds to grow at any time. You need the moisture for your trees. These rules are mainly for growing fruits with the natural rainfall on dry subsoil land.

Trees should be planted an inch or two deeper than the collar mark shows they were in the nursery. The finished planting surface should be left rather sloping toward the tree, and the rows should never be ridged through the process of plowing and cultivation in after years. All limbs of newly set trees should be cut back about two thirds of last years growth.

ORDER EARLY

The nursery stock that you get from us is all grown at home. By doing this way we know that everything is true to name, and that each fruit tree has a hardy root system.

We do not practice the common custom of buying at wholesale from other nurseries in lines we run short in. When a variety is gone, that is the end of it till another supply is grown. When your order reaches us early, you still have time to order elsewhere if we reply that we are out of stock in certain items.

The seasons vary, but as a rule we begin shipping shortly after April 1. Trees and shrubbery planted during April generally do better than those set after May 15.

PARCEL POST

Those living at a distance from the railroad can get very good service by parcel post. It is most convenient to send the smaller sizes this way; and by cutting the tops back as they should be after planting, we can mail pretty fair sized stock. Those ordering this way should make allowance for postage.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Five of one kind, and ten of not over three varieties at ten rates. Fifty allowed at hundred rates; but not over five varieties allowed at fifty rate.

Where long lists of one or two of a kind are wanted, they must be paid for at single rates. No orders booked or shipped until paid for in full. Send enough money to cover cost of sizes and varieties of your choice, and say if you will allow us to substitute other sizes and varieties for any that we may be out of.

It is not our intention to substitute without permission, though we sometimes do this in late orders when it is hurry-up-time to plant. If very particular that each item be according to order, please mention this.

Any balance due a customer is returned not later than date of filling his order. We do not try to keep a balance by suggesting that the customer take something he has not asked for.

Each one is notified by letter at the time his stock is sent, whether by mail or express.

If there is any complaint at the time you receive the stock, notify me at once. We do not replace "free" nor at "half price," but if I have any reason to think there has been a mistake or fault at this end of the line, we will make it good, either by returning the price paid, or in other stock.

Address all orders to John Robertson, Box 237, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

VARIETIES AND PRICE

APPLES AND CRABS—Named in the order of ripening: Yellow Transparent, Anoka, Duchess, Wealthy, McIntosh Red, Jewell's Winter, Ben Davis and Gano; and the crabs: Whitney, Florence, Dolgo, Amur, Olga, Ivan, Sugar and Sapinia. The last four sorts are of the Hansen varieties, and fine. State whether crabs are wanted for jellies, preserves, or both.

We have a few trees in each of Monona, Windsor, Sasha, Lobo, Good-

hue, Folwell and Earlham, and others of new sorts that we think most promising.

The Sasha is a hardy, late keeping sweet apple from Hansen. Lobo is valuable in size, color, quality and early bearing, though not quite in the Wealthy class for hardiness.

The others are all high grade sorts, and good keepers, but not first in hardiness. Haralson is hardy and desirable, but we do not have a supply of trees in nursery.

2 to 3 feet size, 30c each; per 10, \$2.75; per 100, \$25.00.

3 to 4 feet size, 50c each; per 10, \$4.50; per 100, \$35.00.

4 to 6 feet size, 70c each; per 10, \$6.00; per 100, \$50.00.

CHERRIES—We have the common red, and black to offer in 2 to 3 feet size, at 50c each; per 10, \$4.50. Larger sizes at 75c each; per 10, \$6.50.

PLUMS—We have the Opata, Sapa, Zumbra and Oka, in the sand cherry hybrids. This line is earliest to bear, and are all fine for home use. Opata is first to ripen, and with the Oka, most valuable.

The Tecumseh, Pembina, Waneta, Kaga, Hanska and Minnesota No. 83, are all of the very best in real plum sorts.

2 to 3 feet sizes, 50c each; per 10, \$4.50. 3 to 5 feet size, 70c each; per 10, \$6.00.

GRAPES—We have the Monitor, Dakota and Suelter, named in order of ripening, and hardy without winter cover. Price 30c each; per 10, \$2.50. These are strong growers, bearing medium sized fruit, not of high quality.

GOOSEBERRIES—The Carrie is a medium sized berry, and very dependable. The Josselyn is very large in berry, and does well. Price for strong, two year old plants, 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.

CURRENTS—The Wilder, Diploma and Perfection are of the largest size, and ripen about the same time. The Franco-German is later to ripen, so is valuable in this way; also as one of the strongest and most vigorous under hard conditions.

Perfection bears fine fruit, but lacks in vigor. Wilder and Diploma are the best in large fruit kinds, and we have most plants in these.

Prices, strong 2 year old plants 25c each; per 10, \$2.00. Good average plants, per 25, \$4.00.

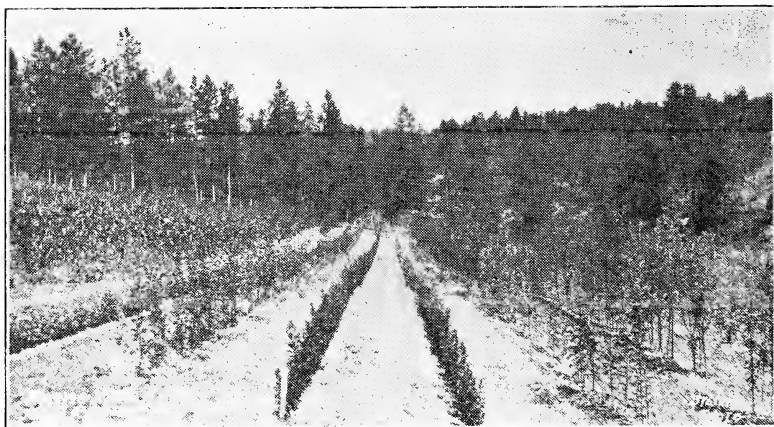
RASPBERRIES—The Latham is my leader as the best all round red sort for either home use or market. Price each 10c; per 12, \$1.00; per 25, \$1.50; per 50, \$2.50; per 100, \$4.00.

STRAWBERRIES—We usually have some plants in best varieties, but not often to spare above local demands.

PURPLE AND WHITE LILACS—Price, good plants 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.

ROSES—We have the Tetonkaha, and Harrison's Yellow, both hardy without winter protection. Price 40c each; per 10, \$3.50.

SIBERIAN, OR FLOWERING ALMOND—This comes out with pretty pink flowers very early in spring. It is a low growing shrub, spreading slowly from root suckers. Desirable for borders, and ornamental purposes. Price 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.



A View of Some Nursery Stock in the Robertson Orchards